

**COGNITIVE MODEL OF THE CONCEPT “GENEROSITY / SAXIYLIK” IN ENGLISH
AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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Abstract. The present study explores the cognitive model of the concept “generosity” in the English language and its equivalent “saxiylik” in the Uzbek language. The research focuses on identifying the semantic and cultural components of this concept and analyzing its linguistic representation in both languages. The study employs comparative, semantic, and cognitive linguistic methods to investigate lexical units, proverbs, and phraseological expressions related to generosity. The findings reveal that while both languages conceptualize generosity as a positive moral quality associated with kindness and altruism, cultural differences influence the structure and interpretation of the concept. In Uzbek culture, generosity is closely connected with hospitality, compassion, and moral responsibility, whereas in English linguistic culture it is often associated with charity, kindness, and benevolence. The study contributes to the field of cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology by highlighting similarities and differences in the conceptualization of generosity in two linguistic and cultural systems.

Keywords: generosity, saxiylik, cognitive model, concept, linguoculturology, semantic field, cultural values, comparative linguistics

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of the cultural and cognitive worldview of a particular society. Modern linguistic studies increasingly focus on the relationship between language, cognition, and culture. In this context, the study of concepts plays a crucial role in understanding how people perceive and categorize reality through language.

One of the important moral concepts represented in many languages is generosity, which reflects the human ability to share resources, help others, and act with kindness and compassion. In Uzbek culture, the equivalent concept “saxiylik” occupies a special place in the system of national values. It is traditionally associated with hospitality, moral responsibility, and respect for others. The Uzbek people historically value generosity as an essential characteristic of a noble and honorable person.

In English linguistic culture, the concept of generosity is expressed through a variety of lexical units such as *generosity*, *charity*, *kindness*, *benevolence*, and *altruism*. These words emphasize the voluntary act of giving, helping others, and showing kindness without expecting rewards.

From a cognitive linguistic perspective, concepts are considered mental structures that organize human knowledge about the world. Therefore, investigating the cognitive model of generosity in different languages helps reveal how cultural values shape conceptual systems. A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek linguistic data makes it possible to identify both universal and culture-specific aspects of this moral concept.

The concept-based approach in linguistics has been widely developed within cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology. Scholars such as George Lakoff and Mark Johnson emphasize that human cognition is structured through conceptual models that are reflected in language. According to their theory, concepts are shaped by metaphorical thinking and cultural experience.

The study of cultural concepts has also been actively developed in Russian linguistics. Yuri Stepanov describes concepts as fundamental elements of culture represented in language and collective consciousness. Similarly, V. I. Karasik considers concepts as mental constructs that reflect cultural values and social norms within linguistic communities.

Another important contribution to the study of cultural concepts belongs to Anna Wierzbicka, who investigates key cultural words and their meanings across different languages. She argues that concepts embedded in language reveal the cultural worldview of a society.

In Uzbek linguistics, the study of cognitive and cultural aspects of language has been developed by scholars such as Sh. Safarov and N. Mahmudov. Their works emphasize the importance of analyzing linguistic units that reflect national mentality and cultural traditions. These studies highlight that many cultural values, including generosity, hospitality, and kindness, are deeply embedded in the Uzbek linguistic worldview.

Despite the growing number of studies devoted to linguistic concepts, the comparative cognitive analysis of the concept “generosity / saxiylik” in English and Uzbek languages has received limited attention. Therefore, this research attempts to fill this gap by examining the cognitive structure and linguistic representation of this concept.

The concept of generosity is represented in both languages through a set of lexical units that form a semantic field.

English lexical units:

- ✦ generosity
- ✦ kindness
- ✦ charity
- ✦ benevolence
- ✦ altruism

Example:

“No act of kindness is ever wasted”

This proverb highlights the moral value of helping others and emphasizes that generosity always has positive consequences.

Another example:

“True generosity is giving without expecting anything in return”

This statement reflects the idea that generosity involves selfless behavior.

Uzbek lexical units

- ✦ saxiylik
- ✦ muruvvat
- ✦ himmat
- ✦ ehson
- ✦ bag‘rikenglik

Example:

“Saxiydan bog‘ qoladi”

This proverb implies that generous people leave positive memories and social benefits behind them.

Another example:

Baxil topsa, bosib yer,

Saxiy topsa, barcha yer.

The proverb emphasizes that generosity is reflected in willingness to share.

The cognitive model of the concept “generosity / saxiylik” consists of several interconnected components.

Core (central element)

Generosity / Saxiylik

Cognitive features

Altruism – helping others without expecting reward

Kindness – showing compassion and empathy

Charity – providing support to those in need

Hospitality – welcoming and sharing with guests (especially important in Uzbek culture)

Moral virtue – being considered a good and honorable person

The conceptual structure can be represented as a semantic network in which generosity acts as the central concept connected with other related ideas.

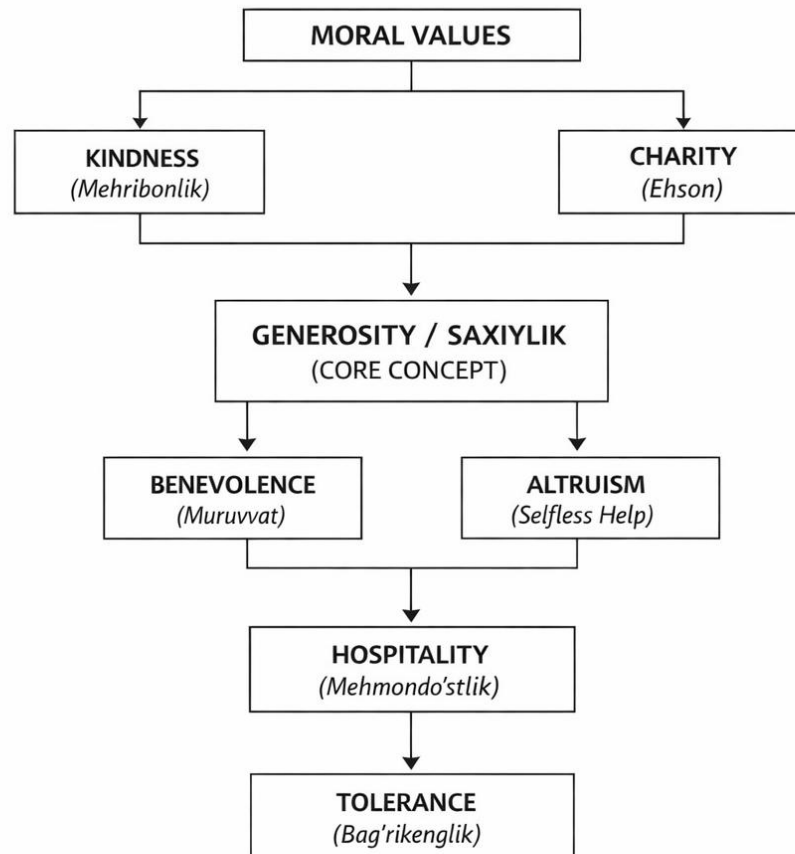


Figure 1. Cognitive Model of the Concept “Generosity / Saxiylik”

In Uzbek cultural cognition, the concept is strongly associated with hospitality and moral duty, while in English culture it is more closely linked with charity and kindness.

The comparative analysis of the concept “generosity / saxiylik” in English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that generosity is perceived as an important moral value in both linguistic cultures. The concept is represented through a set of lexical units that form a semantic field and reflect cultural attitudes toward helping others.

However, the cognitive structure of this concept shows certain cultural differences. In Uzbek culture, generosity is closely connected with hospitality, compassion, and social responsibility. In contrast, the English linguistic worldview emphasizes charity, kindness, and voluntary giving.

The results of this research confirm that conceptual analysis provides valuable insights into the relationship between language, culture, and cognition. The study also contributes to the development of cognitive linguistics and comparative linguocultural studies.

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